



Official Publication Department Massachusetts ★ Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States ★ 42.1 August 2011

A Native Son of Massachusetts

**Richard L. DeNoyer, Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**



Richard L. DeNoyer
Commander-in-Chief

Richard L. DeNoyer will be elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on September 1, 2011, at the VFW's 112th National Convention, held in San Antonio, Texas.

DeNoyer served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1960-1982 including a tour in Vietnam, July 1966-July 1967, attached to Ammunition Co., Force Logistics Support Group "A," 3rd Marine Division. His decorations include the Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and Drill Instructor Ribbon. During his Marine Corps career he received a bachelor's degree from Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

DeNoyer joined the VFW in 1981 at Post 1012 in Medford, Massachusetts, where he maintains his Life Membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the

Post, District and Department (state) levels culminating with his election as Department Commander in 2000-2001. He also has served on numerous national committees and as chairman of the Eastern States Conference.

After his military retirement, DeNoyer served as a national service officer for the American Veterans of World War II organization. In 1988, DeNoyer began working for Paralyzed Veterans of America as a national service officer, senior benefit advocate and national field director, as well as supervising the Boston office and nine offices in the Northeast.

DeNoyer is a member of The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps Association, Marine Corps Mustang Association, Marine Corps League, U.S. Marine Corps Drill Instructors Association, Military Officers Association of America and Masons.

Rich and his wife, Theresa, have two children and six grandchildren; they make their home in Middleton, Massachusetts.

State Senior Vice Commander



Timothy C. Smith
State Senior Vice Commander

I would like to thank all those who were able to attend our annual State Convention at the Peabody Marriott. A lot of work and dedication by the Convention Corporation members paid off and a good time was had by all. One of the highlights that will be long remembered was the entertainment that Past Commander George Murray had arranged on Saturday night with Laura James and Marty Columbo. It was a great success.

The New Year has begun in a big way and we have already started making big strides in this year's State Commander's Project, "The Wounded Warrior Project". All Districts and Posts should be able to contribute, and even possibly sponsor an event to support this project.

Again, we have elected and assembled a team that will make our Department proud. Our efforts in all aspects of our committees, Membership and Veteran's Service Office will help to accomplish all that will be put in front of us.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of District 10, Christian Kulikowski and Michael Gormalley, for their assistance with Salem State University's efforts to assist Veterans that are attending the University. Without your direct involvement, it would be very difficult to achieve the goals the University and I set forward many years ago when the Department started this project.

Since the OUTREACH effort began three years ago, not only have we recruited many members (last year 29 new members), but we have been instrumental in assisting with Veteran's claims resulting in benefits being awarded to disabled veterans.

I look forward to serving and meeting with the Districts across our Department and I hope that many of you will make plans to attend our annual OTI this September in Milford.

Sincerely,
Timothy C. Smith
State Senior Vice Commander

State Commander



Aaron R. Richardson
State Commander

Hello Comrades,

Our 91st State Convention is now behind us. Thanks to all who attended to make it a success. Your newly-elected team of officers is in place and we are committed to do our best for this Department. Thank you for your support and confidence.

This year we will be facing some challenges, especially with membership. New members and retention of existing ones will be very important if we want 100% membership. This year we hope to achieve this goal for our incoming Commander-in-Chief Richard DeNoyer. Our Department needs to lead the way and show our support. I know with all of your efforts we can make him proud of Massachusetts.

In a few weeks we will be attending our National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. I hope to see many of you there.

I wish to extend my congratulations once again to this year's newly-elected Post and District Commanders and wish them a successful year. Please try your best to participate in all of the programs.

OTI will be in September and we will be looking to see many of you attending.

Yours in Comradeship,
Aaron R. Richardson
State Commander

State Junior Vice Commander



Ron Smith
State Junior Vice Commander

I would like to take this time to thank you all for your vote of confidence when you elected me your Dept. Jr. Vice Commander. I will continue to serve you and the Dept. of Massachusetts to the best of my ability.

This year is a special year because we have one of our very own Past Department Commanders, Richard DeNoyer, serving as the National Commander-in-Chief. It is a proud time for Massachusetts.

State Commander Aaron Richardson's special project is The Wounded Warrior Project and he will need your donations and support to reach his goal.

Please try to get your Posts to reach 100% in membership this year and help with all the other programs.

Yours in Comradeship,
Ron Smith
State Jr. Vice Commander



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State Chief of Staff



Donald R. Lafond
State Chief of Staff

Comrades,

Congratulations to all newly-elected and appointed Officers and Chairmen of Posts, Districts and the Department of Massachusetts for the 2011-02012 VFW year. As we embark on a new year, let us all rededicate ourselves to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities expected of each one of us. By doing our part, we will have a successful year.

There is no need for me to preach to the choir about membership. We all know if we are to be a viable organization, tomorrow and in the future we must recruit, retain and reinstate members. There is strength in numbers and that is why we need to remain viable and continue to grow, contact your continuous members to pay their dues now – don't wait until December. Many Posts have neglected to send in their June audits. As Post Commander you are responsible to insure the quarterly audit report is correctly prepared by the trustees and promptly forwarded to State Headquarters no later than the end of the following month.

By this time, Posts should be working on their Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Youth Programs. Remember our goal is to have as many students participate as possible. There are far too many students who have never heard of these important Patriotic Essay competitions. Many students would welcome the opportunity to compete for these valuable scholarships if they knew more about them. Get the Word Out! More information can be found at the VFW Web site: www.VFWdepartmentresources.org

Thanks for what you do and please continue doing it.

Donald R. Lafond
State Chief of Staff

State Adjutant



Gordon L. Crosby, PSC
State Adjutant

I saw a picture of a soldier who lost all his limbs in combat and the caption read: "No less of a person." It brought to the forefront that war is hell. I listened to an Iraqi veteran tell about his experience and the marvel of science and how it put him back together. Modern medicine created a limb and bionic eye.

As he displayed these wonders in amazement, he then made a startling announcement that our government, which sent him into battle, refused to help other veterans with these miracles because it was too costly. There are funds for everything...but not to make people whole again. We give away millions of dollars to banks, industry giants, faraway places but cannot find the will or the resources to do what we can to repair lives that have been shattered by war.

These men and women served our country because they wanted to. Veterans who gave their all cannot get the help they need and deserve. Where is our desire to pay the debt we owe those who served our country by wearing the uniform with courage and distinction? Most answered the call to duty. There are graves...millions of them...and each marker indicates that there once stood a person who lived a full life. That was then...what about now?

A soldier who lost his limbs is truly "no less of a person", and we owe a debt that can never be repaid. The good can be found in millions who served. The bad is the lack of respect we display by ignoring the traumas of those individuals. The bad also can be found in our neglect of the homeless veterans and not giving them the proper care and attention because it "cost too much."

Perhaps one day we will wake up to our responsibilities. In the meantime, all we can do is pray that those in harm's way will find their way home in peace and never lose sight of their sacrifice for honor and country, knowing full well that the debt we owe can never be repaid.

So I thank you for what you do for your service and your nation and what you will continue to do in the future. Concentrate on "what you can do" rather than "what you cannot."

Gordon L. Crosby, PSC
State Adjutant

State Quartermaster



Stanley (Stan) T. King, PSC
State Quartermaster

I would like to say thank you for electing me again as your Department Quartermaster for another year and allowing me to continue serving you.

Officers Training Institute is scheduled for September 23-25, 2011. There is a lot of information given to help Post Commanders, Sr. Vice Commanders, Jr. Vice Commanders, Quartermasters, trustees and Post Corporation officers.

To all members that have access to the Internet and have an e-mail address, every member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars can go to vfw.org and look for the word LOGIN near the top of the page. Click on it and you are at the login page.

If you have not created an account, click on the red words "Create an Account" and follow the instructions. After filling in the six boxes, click on the word GO. Once you log in, you're at MY PAGE; from there you can change your address, manage your account, pay your annual dues with a credit card or sign up to be a Life Member. You can also get information on the National Convention, members' benefits, find a Post when traveling and find out how to get involved in the VFW. There is a wealth of information on the VFW Web page.

All you need is an e-mail address, membership number and create a password...then check out your Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Post Quartermasters, on Friday, September 23rd from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., I will have a meeting room at the Doubletree Hotel in Milford. This is the same day that our Officers Training Institute starts.

The plan is to help those Quartermasters with logging into the VFW Internet and to explain what you can do online after you login. There is a section at the bottom of my page for Quartermasters and all you need to do is click on Post Quartermaster tools and resources. From there, you can pay member's dues online with a credit card (per capita only), transfer a member into your Post, get your Post list of members and so much more. I hope many of you can attend and bring your Post officers and trustees. There will be time for questions and answers.

Stanley King
State Quartermaster



State Membership Chairman

I am Alvin Smart, your State Membership Chairman for 2011-2012. I am available to answer all of your questions concerning membership for this new membership year. I will be available at all of the State Council of Administration Meetings; you can reach me through my e-mail at alvinsmart@comcast.net or my home telephone at 508-238-7143. I can also be reached on by cell phone at 508-972-3038. If you need membership applications, ask me at the COA or call me and I will mail them to you. Don't wait until after the summer is over to start! Start sending in renewals, reinstates and new members now. Below are some things you should be doing now:

- a. Get after those Continuous Members.
- b. Go after those members who have dropped out and never renewed – Reinstated Members.
- c. Check over the Members-at-Large listing and if they are from your town, then get them to transfer to your Post.
- d. Try to get New Members (Veterans, Active Duty, National and/or Reserve).
- e. Pay for those members who are hospitalized, housebound or out of work. Your Chaplain's Relief Fund can pay for these members.
- f. You might want to consider paying for your World War II or Korean War Veterans if your Post can afford to do so.
- g. Try to get Continuous Members to become Life Members. You don't have to keep after Life Members for dues every year.
- h. Get help from the membership in recruiting. One person can't do it by themselves.
- i. Also, send out dues reminders to those members who pay annually. Do this by individual letter, Post Newsletter, e-mail, a telephone call or face-to-face – or all of the above.
- j. If you can collect the member's dues in person, that's even better. You don't have to wait for them to send it to National and your Quartermaster can send it in right away.
- k. To help get new members into your Post, you might want to give a reward to Post members who recruit new or reinstated members. Either a cash prize, a free year's membership or even a free Life Membership for the one who recruits the most, or some other reward that your Post decides on.

Getting members into your Post is the responsibility of everyone. It is not the responsibility of the Post Quartermaster to do all the work. Every member should be involved and made to feel a part of the membership program. Post activities attract members. A strong, active Post helps promote membership.

Alvin Smart
State Membership Chairman



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www.agad.com

Department Inspector



George Mengel
Department Inspector

National Bylaws require that every Post and District be inspected every year. That means every VFW year, not calendar year. If you were one of the last to be inspected in April or May, you need to be inspected for the current year that started July 1, 2011.

Your Post needs to be bonded for the sums of money the Quartermaster has in the bank and any free cash he has. The Adjutant has to have minutes of past meetings. The trustees have checked the books. All office positions should be filled.

Inspection is not something you should be concerned about. It may bring to your attention some changes that will make your Post stronger.

Your inspector will be contacting you soon to set up an inspection time and location. Let's get this job done before the weather turns cold and the snowbird members go south.

George Mengel
Department Inspector

State Judge Advocate



Bob Graser
State Judge Advocate

It is an extreme honor to be your State Judge Advocate for 2011-2012. I would like to thank everyone who offered me advice and counsel and put their trust in me as I sought this position. I am extremely proud to be a member of the VFW Department of Massachusetts team.

I am also pleased to be State Commander Aaron Richardson's State Project Chairman. This year we will be raising funds to support "The Wounded Warrior Project." This is an extremely worthwhile project and I urge all Comrades to please support our Commander in this endeavor. By donating to this cause you are helping to support an organization whose purpose is to help our wounded veterans resume a normal life after their service to our country.

Let's make this a record-breaking year. I also ask you to support all other chairmen in their efforts to complete their programs to which they were assigned.

Thank you again for your trust and confidence.

Bob Graser
State Judge Advocate

State Surgeon

I would like to say thank you to the membership for electing me as your State Surgeon. It is an honor and a privilege to serve.

As I said while I was campaigning, my responsibility is to update the membership on health issues. This time the subject is Special Environmental Health Registry Evaluation Programs for Veterans. All Veterans should register. The registries are as follows: Ionizing Radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War and Toxic Embedded Fragments. There is no fee to be evaluated.

For more information, please contact your local VA Hospital.

Joseph Stavolta
State Surgeon

State Service Officer

Dear Comrades and Sisters,

Your State Service Office, located at Suite 1500C in the John F. Kennedy Building in Boston, is not only alive and well, but thriving, due to the hard work and noble efforts of my predecessors. The continued dedication of our current staff, Sr. Vice Commander Timothy Smith, doubling as our Field Service Officer and doing an amazing job on outreach to our Massachusetts Colleges and Universities and Mrs. Leah LaPointe, Executive Assistant, who has been invaluable to this Department during this time of transition in the office. We are experiencing the greatest period of Compensation and Pension awards ever. The Service Office's reputation for dedication, professionalism and ingenuity is intact and our relationship with the VA Regional Office Boston remains strong.

Recently, I was asked what the Service Office actually did? To that end, we have developed the Service Office's Mission Statement, as follows:

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars Service Office Massachusetts exists to advocate for you, the Veteran, and your family. To directly interact with VA and other agencies on your behalf and ensure you receive proper treatment and the government entitlements for education, illness, injury, disease and death to which you and your family members are entitled, by virtue of your dedicated service and sacrifice to our nation through the

STATE SERVICE, continued on page 4



NEWSPAPER DEADLINES for 2011

Next Issue: December 31st

It is important that the DEADLINES are adhered to.

- 1) All articles that are submitted will be considered for the paper. Due to space restraints, some articles may be held over for the next issue. Events that are of interest to our readers, i.e.: Posts, Districts or individuals receiving or presenting awards to schools, students, cities, towns and state dignitaries and VFW sources.
- 2) Photos accompanying articles must be clear and sharp, glossy 3" x 5" or 4" x 6". Comrades and sisters should be wearing VFW caps or uniforms that clearly show a VFW activity. They should be fully captioned with names and a description of the activity on a separate sheet of paper.
- 3) District and Post functions, such as installations, will not be used because of the large numbers of the same activity.
- 4) In Memoriam – Please submit forms with names in alphabetical order by computer, typewriter or legible printing. Include Post number and Post name.
- 5) It is extremely important that all articles be written in upper and lower case. Submit by mail or by e-mail, which is preferable.
- 6) The State Commander will be the final judge on what will be printed.
- 7) It is preferred that articles be sent by e-mail, in either the body of the e-mail or in Word format. If you are computer literate, please use the tools such as spell check, grammar and thesaurus to edit your story. If not computer literate, someone in your Post must have those capabilities. Use them!

WHERE DO YOU SEND ALL OF THIS INFORMATION?

Richard E. Slowey
State Newspaper Editor
11 Friendship Lane
Bourne, MA 02532
Phone: 508-759-1155
Cell: 508-274-1958

E-mail: vfwmaeditor@verizon.net

E-mail should have (SUBJECT), Post number and name of article.

Publication Awards

Post Publications – Medium (100-179 members)

Congratulations to Amesbury Post 2016 and its editor, Dennis "Ski" Iworsky, for achieving 1st Place in the national competition for "Department Publications – Medium" for their work on their newsletter publication!

Department Publications – Large (24,000 or more members)

Congratulations to Editor Richard Slowey, Bourne Post 5988 for placing 1st in the national competition for "Department Publications – Large" for his work on the newspaper publication!

It's wonderful to see your hard work and dedication acknowledged in this manner. It's an honor to have you both representing our Massachusetts VFWs!

George Murray
Past Post Commander
2010-2011



STATE SERVICE, continued from page 3

Armed Forces. Our goal is to illuminate the VA Claims process, to eliminate the myths and misconceptions regarding this process, to always treat you with the respect you have earned, to keep you informed about your case and to ensure you are awarded the maximum benefit to which you are entitled by law."

It may seem self-explanatory to many, but we do not often explain what we do and why our work is important. Our VFW was formed to do the work which the Service Office does daily on the memberships' behalf. We stand ready to assist every Veteran we can. Sadly, as long as there is a need, our Service Office will do its best for those who have sacrificed so much.

I want to remind you that each Post and District has a Service Officer. If you are that Service Officer, you have a responsibility to ensure the well-being of your Post and District. Be proud of the fact that you, more than any other Officer, can have a positive impact on your Post Member's health and welfare on a daily basis, by properly doing your job. I call upon each Service Officer to help me by looking in on your membership, their families and taking an active interest in getting him or her the help they may need. I assure you, the Service Office is only a phone call away and our staff is always at your disposal.

I look forward to a great year for our organization. I thank State Commander Aaron Richardson for this appointment. Most importantly, I relish the opportunity to meet as much of the membership as possible and be of assistance in the same manner as the past, great Service Officers of our fine Department.

Yours in comradeship,
Christian Kulikoski
State Service Officer

Past State Commander

George D. Murray
Past State Commander

My term as your Commander (2010-2011) ended at the June State Convention. I never thought that a year could pass so quickly. It was a year of much travel as I visited the west, north, east and south Districts throughout this great and historic state of ours. I have many memorable events to recall from my travels.

During my visits, I was most impressed with the hard work and devotion of our Commanders, Officers and members to serving our fighting armed service members and veterans. Without their support, my programs would not have met or exceeded our goals.

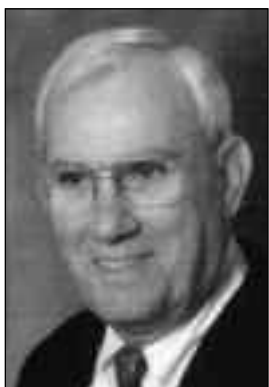
Without the assist from the Ladies Auxiliary, we probably wouldn't have reached our goals. Their hard work and devotion helped immeasurably.

Membership just missed, but not for lack of trying by many. For those who didn't, I implore you to work harder for our new Commander. Without a maximum effort, the future of our organization could be in jeopardy.

I purposely have not used names for the praise they deserve, as I don't want to miss anyone, which is easily done. For the many that did the maximum effort, I can't thank you enough.

In the upcoming year I wish the new team, headed by Commander Aaron R. Richardson, the greatest success in reaching or surpassing their goals. I stand ready and offer my assistance to the team in making it happen.

George D. Murray
Past State Commander

From the Editor

Richard E. Slowey
State Editor

I hope you noticed in the masthead that a major event took place. Our paper was awarded 1st Place. WE did it, not me, not you. This was a joint effort between those of you who contributed articles, the editor for pulling it all together, and our publisher for formatting, printing and mailing the completed paper.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention three people who do the heavy lifting behind the scenes: Sarah Schermann from our Publisher, American Graphics & Design; Leigh Gilbert, my computer expert who volunteered to help me with advanced computer techniques; and Robert Wessa, who provides those great pictures.

In order to maintain our position for next year, we need your continued submission of happenings in your Districts, Posts and Committees. Without the input from you, there can be no output from me.

Last, but not least, is the need for Posts to get computerized. A great deal of money can be saved if we are allowed to transmit electronically in mass distribution.

Congratulations for being Number One in the nation!!

Richard E. Slowey
State Editor

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Massachusetts

**Sectional Conference Meeting**

September 23, 2011
at 7:00 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel

for Candidates Running for Department Officers

**At 8:00 p.m. there will be a
Council of Administration Meeting**

**Saturday at 8:00 a.m. will be
Opening Ceremonies
for our
Officers Training Institute School**

All VFW members are welcome to attend.

Please see sign up sheet at your Post.

Gordon L. Crosby
State Adjutant

**ROOM 546-1 • STATE HOUSE • 24 BEACON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02133 • TELEPHONE: 617-727-2612 • FAX: 617-727-3876**

Richard L. DeNoyer Homecoming Banquet**WHERE IT ALL BEGAN**

September 17, 2011

CONGRATULATORY BANQUET

MASSACHUSETTS VFW & LADIES AUXILIARY "ONLY"

Those Massachusetts VFW & Ladies Auxiliary members who are not able to attend the Homecoming Weekend will now be able to purchase tickets to attend the Congratulatory Banquet honoring our Commander-in-Chief Richard L.

DeNoyer on Saturday evening, September 17, 2011.

Reception - 6:00 pm. Banquet - 7:00 pm, Dress - Formal

Ticket Cost
\$75.00
Per/person

**Boston Marriott
Quincy Hotel**
1000 Marriott Drive
Quincy, MA 02169

**Deadline for
purchasing
tickets**
Sept. 2, 2011

Tickets may be purchased by mailing your check or money order to:

PSC Theodore R. Eaton - Homecoming Chairman

152 Normand Road - Goffstown, NH 03045

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "DeNoyer Homecoming")

I am enclosing \$_____ for the purchase of _____ tickets to attend the C-in-C Richard L.

DeNoyer's congratulatory Banquet on Saturday evening, September 17, 2011

(Tickets can be picked up at the Homecoming Registration Desk at the Hotel)

Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____

Post 2425

Saturday, September 17, 2011

Benjamin D. Cushing Post 2425
VFW Pavilion
Mill Street, Marion

Poker Run/Barbeque
Starts at 11:00 a.m. and ends
at the VFW Post on Rt. 6 in Marion

Followed by a Country Rib Bake at 1 p.m.

Prizes for Top 2 and the Worst Hand!
Donation is \$20 for Riders and \$15 for all others.

Proceeds will go to the
State Commander's special project
to benefit the Wounded Warriors Program

For ticket info, contact:
Bob Demeo at 508-748-1080
Rodney Hunt at 508-441-0788
Brad Arruda at 774-454-7005



Help a Hero Call Home

Support VFW's



**Why do I get
so much mail
from VFW??**

If you're wondering why you receive so much mail from VFW, consider this...

Membership dues alone cannot possibly cover the costs of all the great work we do. Our Department relies heavily on the generosity of members like you.

Out mailings are more than just "feel-good" gifts...they are vital to the strength of our programs and success of our organization.

So please respond if you can. If not, please remember it's for a good cause, our cause!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States SCOUT OF THE YEAR Entry Form 3/2011 Update

Photograph of Scout, in complete correct uniform for their current rank, must be attached to this form. Recommended size 3" x 5" (No additional photos)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Candidate Must:

- Be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship.
- AND**
- Has received the Eagle Scout Award, Venture Silver Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Has demonstrated practical citizenship in school, Scouting, and the community.
- Has reached his/her 15th birthday and is enrolled in high school at the time of selection.
- Has submitted his/her complete entry to a VFW Post in his/her community.

Note: All applicants still in high school who reach their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified. And a scout can only enter through ONE VFW Post.

PLEASE NOTE - DEADLINES

- A scout can locate a sponsoring VFW Post by contacting their VFW Department (state) Headquarters as listed at: www.vfw.org
- Deadline for entry to VFW Post: **March 1st.**
- All candidates with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the Department's (state) National VFW Scouting Team representative or Department Commander by **April 1st.**
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their National Scouting Team member to the National VFW organization by **May 1st.**

National Scouting Team Member

Name: _____

Telephone No. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

DOB (Mo/Day/Yr): _____

SSN (optional): _____

Home Phone No.: _____

Scout Troop Number: _____

MUST SUBMIT APPLICATION DIRECTLY TO A VFW POST IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

SPONSORING VFW POST

Post Number: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Post Commander's Name: _____

District Certification (if applicable)

District #: _____

District Commander: _____

Department Certification

(Must be completed by Dept. VFW National Scouting Team Member or Dept. Commander)

Department: _____

Submitted by: _____

Signature: _____

2011 State Convention



Head table at the Awards Banquet.



Swearing-in ceremony for Aaron R. Richardson, Commander 2011-2012 conducted by Clifford G. Olson, Jr., P.C.I.C. and looking on is Bryan P. O'Brien, Sergeant-at-Arms.



Installation of officers 2011-2012.



State Commander Aaron Richardson with his wife, Georgia.



Recipient of Commander's Award: Elizabeth (Beth) St. Pierre pictured with George Murray, P.S.C.



Anthony Manfredi capping Rebecca Silva.



Georgia capping Aaron R. Richardson, our new State Commander.



Scout of the Year Recipient: Peter James Gjeltema.



Voice of Democracy 2010-2011 recipient Anne Whitehouse standing with Larry Johnson VOD Chairman and George Murray, P.S.C.



Firefighter Award Recipient: Charles F. Whitman, Jr. pictured with Edward Walsh, C.O.S. and George Murray, P.S.C.



Commanders Award presented by George Murray, P.S.C. to the Ladies Auxiliary Color Guard for outstanding service.



Law Enforcement Award, L-R: Marty Columbo; Deputy Superintendent William Gross; recipient, Lylana Jones Henderson; Superintendent Nora Bafton; and George Murray, P.S.C.



Poppy display.



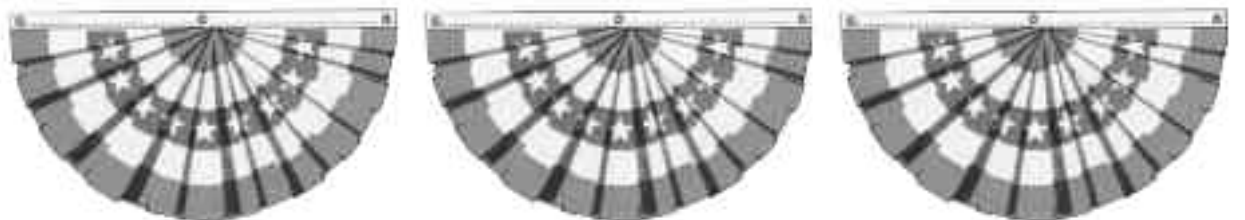
Setting up for the Memorial Service.



The Memorial Service.



Another poppy display.



2011 State Convention

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET**Law Enforcement**

Name of Nominee: _____

Title of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

(1) Resumé of Nominee's Background:
(Attach required documentation)(2) Resumé of Nominee's Background
in Law Enforcement Work:
(Attach required documentation)(3) Nominee's Accomplishments
in the Law Enforcement Field:
(Attach required documentation)(4) Photograph of Nominee:
(Attach required photograph)

Send completed form, resumé and photograph to:

Brian Martin, Law Enforcement Chairman
 Dept. of Massachusetts
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 State House, Room 546-1
 24 Beacon Street
 Boston, MA 02133

*The deadline for your nomination to be
 received by your Department is November 1, 2011.*

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET**Firefighter**

Name of Nominee: _____

Title of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

(1) Resumé of Nominee's Background:
(Attach required documentation)(2) Resumé of Nominee's
Background in Firefighter Work:
(Attach required documentation)(3) Nominee's Accomplishments
in the Firefighter Field:
(Attach required documentation)(4) Photograph of Nominee:
(Attach required photograph)

Send completed form, resumé and photograph to:

Roland Gendron, Firefighter Award Chairman
 Dept. of Massachusetts
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 State House, Room 546-1
 24 Beacon Street
 Boston, MA 02133

*The deadline for your nomination to be
 received by your Department is November 1, 2011.*

Department of Massachusetts VFW 2011 Tentative Schedule

Date	Time	Function	Location
June 12		Convention Reception	Melrose Post 2394
July 16	10:30 a.m.	Council of Administration	Dalton Post 9566
Aug. 2	12 Noon	Officers Reception	Whitman Post 697
Aug. 27-Sept. 1		National Convention	San Antonio, Texas
Sept. 15-18		National C-in-C Homecoming	Quincy, Massachusetts
Sept. 23	7:00 p.m.	Council of Administration	Double Tree/Milford
Sept. 24-25	8:00 a.m.	Flying Squadron – O.T.I.	Double Tree/Milford
Oct. 1	9:00 a.m.	Hospital Workshop	Whitman Post 697
Oct. 9	12 Noon	Commander's Special Project	Danversport Yacht Club
Nov. 6	1:00 p.m.	Veterans Day Ceremonies	Bourne Cemetery
Nov. 11	9:00 a.m.	Veterans Day Ceremony	State House – Boston
Nov. 12	10:30 a.m.	Council of Administration	Gardner Post 905
Nov. 13	12 Noon	Commander's Banquet	Lombardo's Randolph
Nov. 18-20		Eastern State Conference	Dover, Delaware
Dec. 4	1:00 p.m.	Monson Christmas Hospital Party	Monson Hospital
Dec. 12	7:00 p.m.	Canton Christmas Hospital Party	Canton Hospital

2012 Tentative Schedule

Date	Time	Function	Location
Jan. 7	10:30 a.m.	Council of Administration	Stoughton Post 1645
Jan. 15	1:00 p.m.	Voice of Democracy Banquet	Double Tree/Milford
		Patriot's Pen Banquet	
March 3-7		National Legislative Conference	Washington, D.C.
March 10	12 Noon	Commander-in-Chief's Banquet	Lombardo's Randolph
March 17	10:30 a.m.	Council of Administration	Whitman Post 697
April 1	12 Noon	State President's Banquet	Lombardo's Randolph
April 29	10:30 a.m.	Loyalty Day	USS Massachusetts
May 19	10:30 a.m.	Council of Administration	Pepperell Post 3291
May 27	1:00 p.m.	Memorial Day Ceremonies	Bourne National Cemetery
June 7-10		State Convention	Holiday Inn-Mansfield
July 21-25		National Convention	Reno, Nevada

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technician National Awards for Public Servants

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency services persons, law enforcement officers and firefighters to receive VFW National Awards. Eligible candidates for each award are as follows:

Emergency Medical Technician National Award

Any individual who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

Law Enforcement National Award

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individuals employed by private companies or security services.

Firefighters National Award

Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Criteria for all National Awards:

- Candidates must have demonstrated:
- Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
 - Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.

- Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all candidates:

- Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- One page resumé of the candidate's overall background.
- One page resumé of the candidate's background in their field.
- One page listing of the candidate's accomplishment and awards in their field.
- Photograph (preferably a head shot) of the candidate.

Nomination

The three nominations from each Department will receive the appropriate VFW national citation:

- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Law Enforcement Award

All Chairmen should submit a candidate for each of the three awards to their Department Headquarters by January 1, 2012. The Department must select a single candidate from all the Post entries.

**Department of Massachusetts
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Room 546-1 State House**

**24 Beacon Street • Boston, MA 02133-1043
General Order No. 1 • 2011-2012 • June 12, 2011**

1. Having been elected State Commander and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers, having been duly elected, appointed and installed by the 90th State Convention, will be accorded the recognition due them.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>District</u>
State Commander	Aaron Richardson	697	12
Senior Vice Commander	Timothy Smith	545	10
Junior Vice Commander	Ronald Smith	8892	5
Adjutant	Gordon L. Crosby, PSC	1526	5
Quartermaster	Stanley T. King, PSC	2346	10
Judge Advocate	Robert Graser	1822	12
State Surgeon	Joseph Stavolta	7423	18
Chaplain	Father Joseph J. Gallick	697	12
Past State Commander	George D. Murray	1018	1

DISTRICT COMMANDERS 2011-2012

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>
DISTRICT 1	Jorge Castro	1018
DISTRICT 5	Dana McQuaid	2017
DISTRICT 6	James Morrissey	3264
DISTRICT 7	Larry Wilson	6714
DISTRICT 8	Tony Delgado	312
DISTRICT 9	Alan Domenichini	996
DISTRICT 10	Manuel Raymond	1011
DISTRICT 11	Paul Harvey	905
DISTRICT 12	Jeff Najarian	1788
DISTRICT 13	Joe Grabon	8006
DISTRICT 15	Tom Paradis	3291
DISTRICT 17	Rebecca Silva	5489
DISTRICT 18	Barry Sobel	834

Graduation Ceremony

National VFW Sr. Vice Richard DeNoyer, VFW Member Mike Gormalley and I were invited to participate in this year's graduation ceremony for the Veterans that were graduating with advanced degrees this year.

This culminates a three-year effort by the Department to not only assist with recruiting the Veterans into the VFW, but we were also able to help with VA Claims Prep work.

This year we recruited 29 new VFW Members from Salem State University but later this fall, I will be addressing the incoming freshman class in hopes of the continued efforts by the Massachusetts VFW.

Tim Smith
Senior Vice Commander



Pictured, L-R: Mike Gormalley, Sr., Director (Ret.) National VFW Headquarters; Tim Smith, State Jr. Vice Commander/OUTREACH Service Officer; Veteran/Graduate Phillip Shafovaloff; National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard Denoyer; and Kristin G. Esterberg, Academic Vice President-Salem State University.

Pictured, L-R: Mike Gormalley, Sr., Director (Ret.) National VFW Headquarters; Tim Smith, State Jr. Vice Commander/OUTREACH Service Officer; Veteran/Graduate Rebecca Hegarty; National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard Denoyer; and Kristin G. Esterberg, Academic Vice President-Salem State University.



**Buddy Poppy
Display Contest**

Category I

- 1st Place Auxiliary 8006-Florence
- 2nd Place Auxiliary 2892-Fort Phoenix

Category II

- 1st Place Auxiliary 9059-Dartmouth Memorial
- 2nd Place Auxiliary 6800-James A. Logan
- 3rd Place Auxiliary 6712-Beachmont
- 4th Place Auxiliary 1822-Plymouth Memorial
- 5th Place Auxiliary 1788-Rockland

Category III

- 1st Place 7352-Forest Park
- 2nd Place 5737-Abington
- 3rd Place Beachmont
- 4th Place Hampden



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Massachusetts**

**Officers Training Institute
O.T.I.**

Date: September 23-25, 2011
Place: Doubletree Hotel, Milford, Massachusetts
Rooms: Booked through the Dept. Office Form available at your Post
DEADLINE for rooms is September 19, 2011

Registration: \$47.00 per person
includes dinner, VFW Podium Edition and OTI Book. Extra dinner tickets are \$30.00 each.

**Any questions, please call
Gordon or Stan at 617-727-2612**

Whitman Post 697



Pictured, L-R: Whitman Post 697 scholarship co-chairs Anthony O'Brien and Edmund Leonard presenting Sam Smith with the 2011 Post Scholarship Award, while his father, Richard Smith, looks on. Sam is a graduate of Xavarian Brothers High and will attend Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT**

Dear Commanders and Comrades,

State Commander Aaron Richardson invites you to join his "Special Project Team" on Sunday, October 9, 2011 at the Danversport Yacht Club. This year's project is:

**Wounded Warrior Project
Mission to Honor and Empower Wounded Warriors**

**Cocktails: 12 Noon
Dinner: 1:00 p.m.**

**Main Attraction for the evening is a drawing for \$10,000.00
(or a portion thereof and four (4) \$50.00 cash prizes awarded during the drawing)**

**Tickets are \$150.00 each
(only 200 tickets will be sold)**

Please make out the enclosed application and return it with your check made payable to:

Dept. of Mass. VFW

**Mail to:
Dept. of Mass. VFW
State House, Room 546-1
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133-1043**

Must be received no later than October 5, 2011.

Questions, please call: Quartermaster Stan King at 617-727-2612

*Permission to use BINGO funds has been granted
to the Department of Massachusetts VFW for all VFW Posts.
(It is not necessary to seek permission.)*

**William J. Madera
Chairman**

Application for Tickets for Commander's Special Project
The name on the application will receive the check, i.e. individual, business or Post.

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Circle Choice of Meal: Roast Beef Baked Scrod

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Circle Choice of Meal: Roast Beef Baked Scrod

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Circle Choice of Meal: Roast Beef Baked Scrod

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Circle Choice of Meal: Roast Beef Baked Scrod

Service Academy Night

Danversport Yacht Club, Danvers, Massachusetts
Wednesday, November 2, 2011

**6:30-7:00 School representatives booths open
7:00-8:00 School and program overview briefings
8:00-9:30 Visit with school and service representatives**

Schools and Service Representatives Attending

- U.S. Naval Academy
- U.S. Military Academy
- U.S. Air Force Academy
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy
- Massachusetts National Guard
- Massachusetts Maritime Academy
- Maine Maritime Academy
 - Navy ROTC
 - Army ROTC
 - Air Force ROTC
- Norwich University
 - The Citadel
- Valley Forge Military Academy
- Virginia Military Institute
- U. S. Marine Corps

A congressional staff member will be on hand to discuss the federal academy appointment and nomination process.

All interested students and parents in grades 9-12 are invited to attend. There is no cost to attend nor any need to make a reservation.

For further information, please contact:

CAPT Ed Bryant, USCGR (Ret.)

Phone: 978-356-5453

E-mail: captecb29@aol.com

Directions to the Danversport Yacht Club

- Take Route 128 North or South to Exit 22 (Route 620)
 - Take Route 62 East for 1/2 mile
- The Danversport Yacht Club is on the right

There is plenty of parking and the restaurant downstairs in the Yacht Club will be open for dinner for those who wish to arrive early.

Dinner Banquet Honoring State Commander Aaron R. Richardson

November 13, 2011
Lombardo's

To the Officers, Chairmen, Posts and Districts,

Over the past number of years it has been customary for the State Junior Vice Commander to approach the Elected and Appointed Officers, Chairmen, Posts and Districts of our Department for a donation toward a gift to be presented to our State Commander at the banquet in his honor.

The dinner honoring our State Commander Aaron R. Richardson will be held at Lombardo's on Sunday afternoon, November 13, 2011 commencing at 12 Noon and dinner served at 1 p.m.

What better way to extend our thanks to our State Commander for his concern, his involvement, his leadership and his personal efforts in our VFW causes.

Your donation, in any amount, will be greatly appreciated, and will be used towards an appropriate gift, which will be presented to "Aaron" from "his Officers, Chairmen, Posts and Districts at the dinner that afternoon.

We would ask that you please forward your donation(s) prior to November 4th.

**Checks made out to:
Dept. of Mass VFW**

**Send to:
Ronald Smith
State Jr. Vice Commander
Room 546-1 State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133-1043**

Sincerely yours in comradeship,
**Ronald Smith
State Jr. Vice Commander**



OUR TROOPS NEED YOU!

Massive deployments.

Extended tours of duty.

Emotional and financial strains.



Today's servicemen and women are facing serious hardships, and they're looking to us to help keep them connected! In fact, demand for **Operation Uplink** phone time has reached an all-time high!

Your gift to **Operation Uplink** will help us "put the call through." Visit www.operationuplink.org or call 1-800-479-5228 to lend a hand. Remember, with our nation at war, our troops need you more than ever!

Connecting those who Serve . . . With those who Care



God Bless

Our Troops

The Marine

We all came together,
Both young and old.
To fight for our freedom,
To stand and be bold.

In the midst of all evil,
We stand our ground,
And we protect our country
From all terror around.

Peace and not war,
Is what some people say.
But I'll give my life,
So you can live the American way.

I give you the right
To talk of your peace,
To stand in your groups,
And protest in our streets.

But still I fight on.
I don't bitch, I don't whine.
I'm just one of the men
Who is doing your time.
I'm harder than nails,
Stronger than any machine,
I'm the immortal soldier,
I'm a U.S. MARINE!

So stand in my shoes,
And leave from your home.
Fight for the people who hate you,
With the protests they've shown.
Fight for the stranger,
Fight for the young,
So they all may have,
The great freedom you've won.
Fight for the sick,
Fight for the poor.
Fight for the cripple,
Who lives next door.

But when your time comes,
Do what I've done.
For if you stand up for freedom
You'll stand when the fight's done.

*Corporal Aaron M. Gilbert
United States Marine Corps
USS Saipan, Persian Gulf
March 23, 2003*



One of the most emotion-evoking photos I've ever seen. Taken at the National Cemetery in Minneapolis on a June morning by amateur photographer Frank Glick as it appeared in the Minneapolis Star/Tribune. Talk about a picture being worth a thousand words!!! It says everything without a single word. This should become an official Memorial Day, 4th of July and/or Veterans Day remembrance photo. Our symbol, standing guard...Semper Paratus (Always Prepared, as the Coast Guard puts it).

Angels Called Nurses

They were angels of mercy in a time of pain
to care for the wounded on an endless train
They came as young ladies not a line in their face
the youth long gone old age took its place

This was their job by what life would inject
but what they saw they just didn't expect
Only at night do they shed a tear
thank god this duty is for only a year

One after one they came and they went
with each beat of her heart another was sent
As a river flows in a raging flood
so did the floors of a soldier's blood

Her emotions well hidden dare never be shown
she could only let them go when she was alone
War is hell and can be unforgiving
but she can only help heal the scars of the living

The look on their faces that death was near
a gentle hand took away that fear
Their hearts were broken in a myriad of tears
how would a legless man finish his years

A gentle touch a whispering word
for the blinded boy will forever be heard
It was a difficult time situations were crude
only in a glass of wine could she find solitude

She returned in the morning to an empty bed
she knew deep in her heart he was better off dead
Every day in combat is a year more you age
every gray hair earned it earned out of rage

The women of combat are just as brave
they honor the boys the ones that they save
They were the tamers in a lion's den
who dare say they are not as strong as men

The soles of their feet were covered in blisters
it broke their hearts when they lost their sisters
In her dreams under halos of grace
she remembers their names and knows every face

Their minds are heavy about the carnage they saw
they will not let their sons fall to another war
Of all the pains I had to embrace
there was no better cure than the smile on her face

She said we'd make it she was so damn sure
we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for her
They should feel no guilt only their pride
they were angels called nurses they stood by our side

*William L. Gallagher
Post 1274, Natick, Massachusetts*

